



LGBT Business Enhancement Committee

Committee Chair, Thomas Barker.

Committee Members

Chad Richter
Cindy Brown
Dale Stine
David Leeds
Edison Farrow
Elizabeth Schwartz
Gayle Durham
James Weingarten
Jorge Richa
Laura Veitia
Mark Wylie
Michael Bath
Nellie Barrios

Meeting Minutes Tuesday, June 9th, 2015

Members in attendance were Thomas Barker, Chad Richter, Cindy Brown, Dale Stine, David Leeds, Edison Farrow, Elizabeth Schwartz, Gayle Durham, James Weingarten, Jorge Richa, Laura Veitia, Mark Wylie, Michael Bath, Nellie Barrios. From Administration: Daphne Saba, Rob Rosenwald. Guest: George Neary (The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau), Detective Juan Sanchez (Miami Beach Police Department), Commissioner Michael Grieco.

1. Old Business

- a) Minutes of 5/11/15 were approved unanimously (Michael motioned to approved, Dale 2nd it).

2. Ongoing Business

- a) World Out Games (WOD) 2017 – Bruce Townsend (Co-Chairman) and Jerry Torres (Director of Culture) provided an update on the project so that we can learn about its progress and expected impact in Miami Beach. Key information shared: GMCVB is a partner, focus on recruit in Latam, Central America, South America, South East Asia, July 1st, 2015 registrations begin, no need to be LGBT to participate, Culture will include a Glow Run and the “Village” will be in Ocean Drive between 5th and 15th street. Raquel Matas of UM has agreed to be co-chair of the The Human Rights Conference portion.
- b) Transgender HRC Policy & Religious Exemption – No Commissioner has picked up this LTC which includes the Religious Freedom. Liz Schwartz explained the rationale and why it is important. Rob will prepare some bullet points to have as reference and for the members of the committee to use when talking with their respective commissioners to gain their support. Michael Grieco will look into the LTC and move it forward.
- c) LGBT Street Signs – No update
- d) MBPD Updates – Department learning from Pride issue on the closing of the street for Palace party and its delayed in re-opening. As a result, Palace will probably not be allowed to close the street next year.
- e) GMCVB Update – George Neary was present to also add to the WOD '17 dialogue since he is a board member and the GMCVB is supporting the event. At next meeting a presentation on how the GMCVB is using Public Relations to market Miami Beach, will take place.

- f) HRC Application – All is moving forward to fill the pertinent paperwork. Special attention will be given to transgender item, seniors work, and LGBT city employees gathering / happy hour.

3. Other Business

- a) Sub-Committee Reports. All subcommittees will meet prior to the next LGBT BEC meeting (if need to) providing notification to Vania on time & place at least 2 weeks out for proper posting.
 - i. Senior Programming (Liz, David, Jorge, Laura)
 - a. SAGE continues with partnership with JCS and charge to establish a Miami Affiliate, using their facility and have identified and extended an offer to a person who would become the lead in these efforts.
 - ii. Visibility & Marketing (Dale, Cindy, Nellie, Chad, Thomas)
 - a. Rainbow Crosswalk – group expressed their discontent that Key West beat Miami in getting the news of a Rainbow Crosswalk. Our request to the Commission for permanent Rainbow Crosswalk in Ocean Drive dates back a few years and has not moved forward as it is bundled as part of the Capital Improvement Project of Ocean Drive.
 - b. LGBT @ Holocaust Memorial – based on the conversations with those who manage the existing Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach this is not something they want to tackle at this point in time. Committee had further dialogue if a focus on an AIDS memorial instead might be more impactful for LGBT visibility in Miami Beach.
 - iii. Attract LGBT Businesses to MB (Edison, Michael, Mark, Gayle)
 - a. Contemplating a different approach; instead of focusing bringing new business owners to Miami Beach they will concentrate on identifying big conventions and gathering that can be brought or are already coming to Miami Beach. GMCVB offered to assist in providing a list of what's already coming and potentials.
- b) Other
 - i. Request was made that we start next meetings with sub-committee updates so that we can have more time to discuss the pertinent projects and initiatives.
 - ii. Michael proposed sending to Commission the request for extended weekend hours for the White Party '15, Pride '16, and Winter Party '16 so that it could make it to the July Commission Agenda. It was agreed that we would wait for placement in the September Commission meeting therefore further dialogue on this line item will take place at our next meeting in July.
- c) Announcements – MDGLCC “The Sapphire Gala” (6/13)

Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.